b) Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

Claims 17-40 are currently amended.

17. (Currently Amended) An excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ comprising:

a gas supply path structure ~~of a convergent-divergent nozzle type,~~ including a fluid inlet, ~~into which a laser gas is made to flow, a throat portion for controlling a flow speed of said laser gas less than a speed of sound, and~~ a fluid outlet, ~~of which said laser gas from said throat portion is made to flow out;~~ and a throat portion provided between the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet;

a gas supplier for supplying a laser gas to the fluid inlet such that a flow speed of the laser gas is less than a speed of sound at the throat portion; and

a waveguide unit having a plurality of slots, for guiding microwave into ~~said~~ the gas supply path structure through the plurality of slots, to excite the laser gas.

18. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 17, further comprising a circulation system for circulating said laser gas flowing out of said fluid outlet, into said fluid inlet.

19. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 17, wherein said gas supply path structure being arranged so that a ratio of a pressure at said fluid inlet to a pressure at said fluid outlet is not less than a ratio of critical pressures.

20. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to claim 17, wherein said laser gas is an excimer laser gas which is a mixture of F_2 gas with at least one inert gas selected from Kr, Ar, Ne, and He.

21. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 17, wherein said gas supply path structure for supplying said laser gas, said gas supply path structure being a structure without an inflection point.

22. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 17, wherein further comprising at least one pressure correcting means for correcting a pressure at said fluid inlet or at said fluid outlet.

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23. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 17, further comprising at least one temperature correcting means for correcting a temperature at said fluid inlet or at said fluid outlet.

24. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 23, wherein said temperature correcting means has a cooling function and wherein said cooling is effected near said fluid outlet.

25. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 17, wherein said gas supply path structure further comprising vertical width adjusting means for adjusting a vertical width of said throat portion.

26. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 18, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one bellows pump.

27. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 18, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one circulating pump.

28. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 18, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one blower.

29. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 18, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one fan.

30. (Currently Amended) An excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ comprising: a gas supply path structure group including ~~a plurality of connected convergent-divergent nozzles, said nozzle each comprising~~ a fluid inlet, ~~into which a laser gas is made to flow, a throat portion for controlling a flow speed of said laser gas, and~~ a fluid outlet, ~~of which said laser gas from said throat portion is made to flow out;~~ and a throat portion provided between the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet;

a gas supplier for supplying a laser gas to the fluid inlet; and

a waveguide unit having a plurality of slots, for guiding microwave into ~~said~~ the gas supply path structure group through the plurality of slots, to excite the laser gas

wherein said gas supply path structure group includes a light emitting portion for generating a laser beam, and the flow speed of said laser gas at said light emitting portion is higher than a speed of sound~~, and~~

~~wherein the laser oscillating apparatus is an excimer laser oscillating apparatus~~.

31. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 30, further comprising a circulation system for circulating said laser gas flowing out of a fluid outlet of said gas supply path structure group, into a fluid inlet of said gas supply path structure group.

32. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to claim 30, wherein said laser gas is an excimer laser gas which is a mixture of F_2 gas with at least one inert gas selected from Kr, Ar, Ne, and He.

33. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 30, wherein said gas supply path structure group being a structure without an inflection point.

34. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 30, further comprising at least one pressure correcting means for correcting a pressure at a fluid inlet of said gas supply path structure group or at a fluid outlet of said gas supply path structure group.

35. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 30, further comprising at least one temperature correcting means for correcting a temperature at a fluid inlet of said gas supply path structure group or at a fluid outlet of said gas supply path structure group.

36. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 30, further comprising vertical width adjusting means for adjusting a vertical width of said throat portion.

37. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 31, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one bellows pump.

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38. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 31, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one circulating pump.

39. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 31, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one blower.

40. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 31, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one fan.

Claims 41 - 44 (Cancelled).